

T-692

c. 1870

Benjamin H. Blades House  
St. Michaels  
Private

A chain of title for this Mulberry Street lot indicates this two-story stepped house was erected during the third quarter of the nineteenth century and probably by Benjamin H. Blades, a St. Michaels carpenter who had a shop on Talbot Street. A listing advertising his skills is included in the small business directory for St. Michaels in 1877. The listing reads,

B. H. Blades, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Persons having work in this line will do well to see him before contracting.

The Mulberry Street house remained in Blades family hands for another generation when Benjamin devised it to his son, Benjamin L. Blades and his daughter, Elizabeth P. Horney. However, as a result of a defaulted mortgage the property was sold in 1913.

The Benjamin Blades house is a typical two-story, two-part frame dwelling that follows a stepped profile like dozens of other houses in St. Michaels. The stepped house carries its period porch with decorative sawn corner brackets. The house stands in a row of contemporary buildings and contributes to the character of Mulberry Street.

Survey No. T-692

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic BENJAMIN H. BLADES HOUSE

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 111-113 Mulberry Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town St. Michaels \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture ___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial ___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment ___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government ___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial ___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military ___ other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 257

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 125

city, town Easton state MD 21601

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-692

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Benjamin H. Blades house stands at 111-113 Mulberry Street in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, two-part frame house faces south with the main gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1870, the two-story stepped main block is comprised of two sections each two bays across. The eastern half, the taller section, contains the original principal entrance. A partially glazed front door is topped by a three-pane transom. Six-over-six sash windows flanked by louvered shutters light the first and second floors. The adjacent slightly shorter section is also two bays across with a separate entrance and six-over-six sash as well. Stretching across the full front is a chamfered post porch with decorative sawn corner brackets and a square baluster handrail. The base to the roof is finished with a boxed cornice with slightly extended eaves.

The gable ends are marked by single six-over-six sash windows that light the first floor, and interior end brick stove chimneys that protrude through the gable ends.

Attached to the back of the house is a two-story service wing.

The interior was not seen.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. T-692

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Benjamin H. Blades house is a typical two-story, two-part frame dwelling that follows a stepped profile like dozens of other houses in St. Michaels. The stepped house carries its period porch with decorative sawn corner brackets. The house stands in a row of contemporary buildings and adds to the character of Mulberry Street.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

A chain of title for this Mulberry Street lot indicates this two-story stepped house was erected during the third quarter of the nineteenth century, and probably by Benjamin H. Blades, a St. Michaels carpenter who had a shop on Talbot Street. A listing advertising his skills is included in the small business directory for St. Michaels. The listing reads,

B. H. Blades, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Persons having work in this line will do well to see him before contracting.

The Mulberry Street house remained in Blades family hands for another generation when it was devised in 1907 to his son, Benjamin L. Blades, and his daughter, Elizabeth P. Horney. (Will 17/46) Blades family ownership of the house ended in 1913. (165/423)



BENJAMIN H. BLADES HOUSE

T-692

YEAR: 1944 VOL: 257 PAGE: 125 PRICE: \$3700  
FROM: Lewis J. Duncan and Virginia W. Duncan  
TO: Merritt L. Holden and Mildred D. Holden  
NOTES: On N side of Mulberry Street adjoining Oliver Sparks; 60 feet on Mulberry extending back 60 feet (!)  
To Duncans by Jump 1936, 237/332.

YEAR: 1936 VOL: 237 PAGE: 332 PRICE: \$670  
FROM: Helen A. Jump and John W. D. Jump  
TO: Lewis J. Duncan and Virginia W. Duncan  
NOTES: Same description.  
Conveyed by James M. Seth to Benjamin H. Blades 1862, 70/486.  
Devised by Benjamin Blades 1907, 17/46 to his son and daughter, John L. Blades and Elizabeth P. Horney.  
Sold by John W. D. Jump, atty. by foreclosure on a mortgage, Blades and Horney to Jump 1913, 165/423.  
Conveyed by John Jump to Helen A. Jump 1936, 237/330

YEAR: 1913 VOL: 165 PAGE: 423 PRICE:  
FROM: John L. Blades and Elizabeth P. Horney  
TO: John W. D. Jump  
NOTES: This is a mortgage for \$400.

YEAR: 1862 VOL: 70 PAGE: 486 PRICE: \$220  
FROM: James M. Seth and Louisa Seth  
TO: Benjamin H. Blades  
NOTES: "All that lot opposite the parsonage of the M-E Church being part of two lots that were purchased by James M. Seth of Miss Mary Tennant devised to her by her father Samuel Tennant saving and excepting those parts of the same that have been sold to Greenbury Marshall and Mrs. Mary Leonard the widow of Daniel Leonard, measuring 60 feet on Mulberry and extending back between Oliver Sparks and Greenbury Marshall 60 feet to a cove behind the P-E Church".

The "parsonage of the M-E Church" referred-to above is the Cannonball House!

YEAR: 1852 VOL: 64 PAGE: 410 PRICE: \$1650  
FROM: Mary Tenant  
TO: James M. Seth  
NOTES: Lots 17 (Canonball House), 9, and 10 were on this deed.  
This was the property awarded to Mary Tenant in the three-way division of her father Samuel Tennant's estate, between Mary, Edward, and Thomas Tennant.

YEAR: 1839 VOL: 54 PAGE: 253 PRICE:

FROM: Thomas and Edward Tennant

TO: Mary Tennant

NOTES: This deed, one of three in the division of Samuel Tennant's real estate, gives Mary Tennant lots 9, 10, and 17. This is lot number 9.

YEAR: 1839 VOL: PAGE: PRICE:

FROM: Joseph Bruff, William Townsend, John Harrington

TO: Mary, Edward, and Thomas Tennant

NOTES: Distribution of Samuel Tennant's real estate.

YEAR: 1809 VOL: PAGE: PRICE:

FROM: Land Office, Eastern Shore

TO: Samuel Tenant

NOTES: Ref: Talbot County Unpatented Certificate of Survey Number 239

On February 22, 1809, Samuel Tenant (who had made the 1804-06 Survey of the new Town of St. Michaels) was granted an "unpatented Certificate of Survey" for certain "escheated lands" in St. Michaels which he called "The Polygon".

Among the lots included in "The Polygon" were #9 and #10. These had not been previously sold by Braddock, Thompson, or Wignals and, presumably, taxes had never been paid on them. Under Braddock's will they would have belonged to John Thompson or to Wignals by his purchase from Thompson.

YEAR: 1778 VOL: PAGE: PRICE:

FROM: James Braddock

TO:

NOTES: Lots 9 and 10 were among the unsold lots on Braddocks "plat of St. Michaels". Braddock's will left all of his real estate to John Thompson. The unsold lots were then bought by James Wignal in 1784 (21/417) whereupon the title became lost until picked up by Sam Tenant in 1809. They were part of "Jane's Progress".

is more or less west one  
in the with South  
and forty nine  
west one hundred  
at one hundred and  
fifty feet to the water  
at fifty feet, then  
Street, then thence with  
with sixty feet degrees  
on foot to Ballston  
the Beginning, containing  
more or less in  
Barrows.  
Shot Country.

been a long time  
£12.00.0

7.6  
4.0  
£11.6

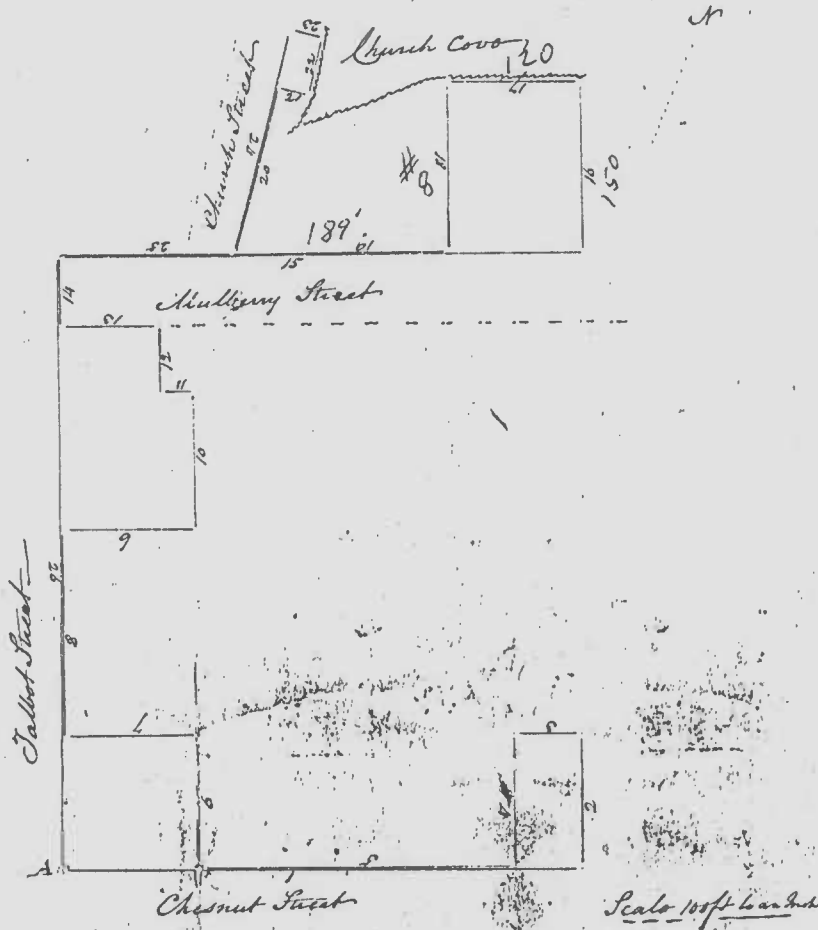


Table of Courses  
Beginning at A.

N. 1. N 65° 45' E - 160 feet	N. 14 - N 24° 15' W - 60 feet
2. N 24° 15' W - 120.	15 - N 65° 45' E - 166. 466' to lat # 11
3. S 65° 45' W - 60.	16 - N 24° 15' W - 150.
4. S 24° 15' E - 119.	17 - S 65° 45' W - 120.
5. S 65° 45' W - 280.	18 - S 24° 15' E - 149.
6. N 24° 15' W - 120.	19. S 65° 45' W - 139.
7. S 65° 45' W - 119.	20 - N 8° - W - 129.
8. N 24° 15' W - 130.	21 - N 22° - E - 30.
9 - N 65° 45' E - 120.	22 - N 8° - W - 50.
10 - N 24° 15' W - 120.	23 - S 22° - W - 30.
11 - S 65° 45' W - 30.	24 - S 8° - E - 200.
12 - N 24° 15' W - 60.	25. S 65° 45' W - 157.
13 - S 65° 45' W - 89.	26 Straight to the Beginning
	Containing 1 1/2 acres









T-692

BENJAMIN H. BLADES HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD

Southeast elevation

6/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-692

BENJAMIN H. BLADES HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD

South elevation

6/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust